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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

HENRIKUS HM COX, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 10/806,344

Examiner: Peter B. Kim

Filed: March 23, 2004

Confirmation No.: 2197

For: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

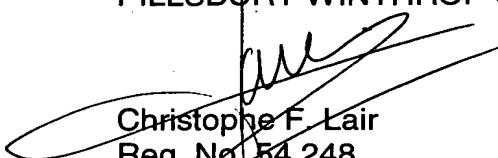
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Notice of Allowability dated August 28, 2006, the Examiner has set forth "Reasons for Allowance." The Applicants respectfully traverse these Reasons. Specifically, it is submitted that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart or be required for patentability of the claims. Furthermore, Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are allowable not only for their dependence on the allowed independent claims, but also for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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